Amendments to the Specification

Please amend paragraph [0037] to read as follows:

[0037] The actions of all of the blocks indicated by reference numeral 101 (which include block 104 and blocks 126 to 132) may be performed in a device at the location where the CC cells are detected in block 126. The actions of all of the blocks indicated by reference numeral 105 (which include block 106 and blocks 107 to 112) may be performed in a device at the location where the CC cells are detected in block 106.

Please amend paragraph [0038] to read as follows:

[0038] Method 100 may also monitor continuity of the connection in a direction away from the root of the spanning tree as shown in Figure 4. In block ~~120~~ 119 a second set of CC cells are generated and dispatched from the node at which CC cells are received in block 106 toward the root. The second set of CC cells may be sent at the same or a similar rate to the first set of CC cells. In block 126 the CC cells of the second set of are detected at an end of the connection. The second set of CC cells may be detected, for example, at the same node at which the first set of CC cells originates. As long as the CC cells of the second set of CC cells continue to be detected at the end of the connection it is known that the connection is transmitting cells. The time since receipt of the last CC cell is monitored in block 127. If the time exceeds a threshold as determined in block 128 then an alarm condition is initiated in block 130. Upon the alarm condition being triggered, an action request may optionally be generated (block 132). The action request may comprise, for example, a topology change request or a connection rerouting request. Where a VLAN comprises a plurality of connections extending through one or more cell relay networks, method 100 may be applied to any or all of the connections.